

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OIC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ABF-01 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3308

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 2655

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDP, EAID, MX

SUBJECT: UNDP/MEXICO FINANCIAL CRISIS

REF: STATE 38843

1. IN MEETING FEB 27 BETWEEN EMBECONOFF AND UNDP RESREP PEREZ ARTETA AND DEPUTIES, UNDP OFFICIALS WERE ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS EFFECTS OF FINANCIAL CRISIS (REFTEL) ON THEIR LOCAL OPERATIONS. UN OFFICIALS LAMENTED THE SHORT NOTICE RECEIVED ON THIS REDUCTION IN FUNDS; THEY ALSO NOTED THAT THEY HAVE HAD LITTLE TIME TO FOCUS ON FORWARD PLANNING, AS PROJECT CLOSE-OUT DETERMINATIONS HAVE BEEN THEIR PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF ATTENTION. ACCORDING TO THE RESREP, LEGAL COMMITMENTS ARE BEING FULFILLED BUT ALL EXPERTS WITHOUT CONTRACTS WILL BE SUSPENDED.

2. EMBOFF NOTED THE GOVERNING COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION (REFTEL) THAT PROJECTS AFFECTING "MOST VULNERABLE" SECTORS BE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. HOWEVER, UNDP OFFICIALS RESPONDED THAT WITH RARE EXCEPTION THEIR PROJECTS CONCERNED THE WELFARE OF THE GENERAL POPULATION AND THAT SUCH A CRITERION WAS NOT APPLICABLE.

3. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, UNDP OFFICIALS HOPED THAT THIS
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MEASURE WOULD CAUSE GOM TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE UNDP/

MEXICO PROGRAM. UP TO NOW, ACCORDING TO PEREZ ARTETA, INDIVIDUAL MEXICAN AGENCIES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR "ANNOYANCE" AT PROJECT CANCELLATIONS, BUT NOT ALL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN, AND THE FONOFF HAS THUS NOT RECEIVED A COMPLETE LIST OF CANCELLATIONS. THE UN OFFICIALS FEEL THAT (1) THE GOM HAS SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO FUND THOSE PROJECTS WHICH IT CONSIDERS MOST URGENT, AND (2) FAILURE TO DO THIS WOULD REFLECT LACK OF GOM COMMITMENT TO THE UNDP PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, UN OFFICIALS ARE ANXIOUS FOR GOM TO PROVIDE A LIST OF PROJECT PRIORITIES. SUCH A LIST HAS NEVER BEEN PREPARED IN PAST. ALTHOUGH UNDP HAS FUNCTIONED WITHOUT GOM PRIORITY GUIDELINES, THEY ARE NOT DISPLEASED THAT GOM WILL NOW BE FORCED TO EXAMINE ITS OWN NEEDS MORE ANALYTICALLY.
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